

D-8673

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

S. 1, Special Branch Station,

REPORT

Date August 15, 1938.

Subject..... H. F. K. HULSEMANN - Communication dated July 19, 1938 from

Burma Defence Bureau.

Made by. D. S. Pitts

Forwarded by

W. Logan

Hugo Friedrich Kurt HULSEMANN, German, was born in Magdeburg, Berlin in 1902 of wealthy parents of good background and reputation. He received an extensive education, terminating his studies in 1931 at the University of Hamburg where he was successful in securing the degree of a Doctor in Philosophy. Since that time, however, he has devoted himself to the study of the science of races, their relations to one another and their characteristics and is well known in Germany as a leading ethnologist.

His trip around the world, which has already taken him to numerous countries, was undertaken with the purpose of increasing his knowledge of ethnology, although it should be added that his interest in this direction is primarily in people as they live to-day rather than in their origins and earlier developments.

A brilliant man in many respects and having all the attributes of a gentleman born and bred, Dr. Hulsemann is looked upon in certain responsible circles as a person given to eccentricities and, at times, whimsical fads, resulting in his having been regarded on numerous occasions as either a suspicious character or an individual whose mental make-up was decidedly unbalanced.

Prior to arriving in Shanghai on July 11, 1938 he stayed in Japan for some three months, studying the peasant and farmer classes there to gain material for his research work. He was in the habit of making his way from one point to another on foot, asking questions here and there and making notes on various interesting features. Since he never was

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clad in more than a pair of shoes, shorts and a shirt (often the latter was missing), since he never indulged in shaving but grew a great shaggy beard and since he always stayed the night in practically the meanest hovel he could find, he eventually drew the attentions of the Japanese Police towards himself and in the early part of July, 1935, was arrested in Nagasaki as a suspicious character. He was subsequently released after the German Consulate-General in that town had intervened and established his real identity.

In Shanghai he stayed at the German Home (now defunct), a place which, in the ordinary run of events, catered for German down-and-outs and stranded seamen. Nothing objectionable was noted in his conduct during his stay here. He remained here for a few months, but finally intimated that Shanghai was far too cosmopolitan a city for his studying purposes.

He travels and lives as cheaply as he possibly can, for he says, "it is only by moving among the poorer people that one can really understand the traits of the poor and after all is said and done, they form the greater part of the populations of the various races."

Dr. Hulsemann would appear to be a man who really is only interested in the essential things of life, money and luxury having very little appeal to him.

It is reported, however, that when he does finally return to Germany, he will publish a volume based upon his experiences as an ethnologist bolstered by the notes and details he has recorded during the past few years.

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According to our information, Dr. Hulsemann has never been mixed up in any political intrigues, his sole interest in life being that as outlined above.

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D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch)

DBL

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August 16 38.

Director,
Burma Defence Bureau,
Rangoon.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No.997/DB-42/38 dated July 19, 1938, addressed to Mr. F.W. Gerrard, C.I.E., requesting information concerning a German named Hugo Friedrich Kurt HULSEMANN, and in reply to forward herewith ^x copy of police report on this individual.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sd. K. M. Bourne.

Commissioner of Police.

x Sent.
Tw. 7/8.

JR

S E C R E T.

It is requested that the following number be quoted in the reply to this letter.

No. 997/DB-42/38

Burma Defence Bureau

CANTONMENT POST OFFICE
RANGOON

Dated the 19th. of July, 1938.

My Dear Gerrard,

Can you give me any information regarding the German subject whose statement is enclosed? He seems too well educated and too well mannered a person to be wandering around the world aimlessly.

Yours sincerely,



F. W. Gerrard, Esq., C.I.E.,
Commissioner of Police,
Shanghai.



STATEMENT OF DR. PHIL HUGO FRIEDRICH KURT HULSEMAN.

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I am a German subject, having been born at Magdeburg, Berlin, Germany. I am 32 years of age and a Doctor of Philosophy. I came out from home on tour. I am a journalist by profession, but I am not connected with any particular newspaper. Sometime I give articles to the newspaper containing my adventures and experiences. I am the master of eight European languages. After staying for a few months in Shanghai in 1935, I came over to Siam where I had worked as an English teacher and thus earned some money. Later on I took up tuition and remained there for some time.

Then I crossed the Siamese border and entered Victoria Point on the 17th. December 1937. I lived there with one Mrs. Snow, a teacher, living opposite the Customs House, Victoria Point. Having stayed there for about six months, I left for Rangoon by the s.s. "Juna" and arrived here on the 12th. July 1938.

I hold German passport No. 380, issued at Shanghai on the 30th. September 1935, bearing British visa No. 35002, granted at Manila on 7th. April 1937. I am in possession of 70/- American Dollars and Rs. 10/- (Indian currency). I may go back to Siam after a few months. On my return home I have a mind to compile a book of my experience touching customs and languages of the people of the East.

"True Copy"

[Signature] 19/7

Office of the Director, Burma Defence Bureau, Rangoon.